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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Thomas M. Mills et al.
U.S. Serial No. : 10/040,010
U.S. Filing Date : January 4, 2002
For : TREATMENT OF ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION
Art Unit : 1617
Examiner : Bahar, Mojdeh

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ELECTION AND RESPONSE

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request a one month extension of time in which to respond to the Restriction Requirement dated August 26, 2003 in which a 1 month shortened statutory period was set for response. Filed herewith is a Request for Extension of Time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) and the required fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required by this action to Deposit Account No. 16-1435.

In response to the Office Action mailed August 26, 2003 (Paper No. 9) Applicants hereby elect Group I, Claims 1-20, and 22-25, with traverse, for further prosecution in the above-identified application. Applicants traverse on the grounds that searching all of the claims would not prove unduly burdensome.

Further, as requested by the Examiner (Office Action, page 4), Applicants elect the following species for the functions recited in claims 7 and 9-12 of Group I:

As a compound that reduces the amount of active Rho-kinase enzyme as described in claim 7, Applicants elect Y-27632, which inhibits ATP binding to Rho-kinase and thus, inhibits the formation of active Rho-kinase (disclosed in the specification at page 14, lines 14-21, and Figure 2).

As a compound that inhibits GTP binding to RhoA enzyme as described in claim 9, Applicants elect guanine nucleoside dissociation inhibitor (GDI) (disclosed in the specification at page 15, lines 15-18).

As a compound that inhibits translocation of RhoA enzyme to the cellular membrane as described in claim 10, Applicants elect sodium nitroprusside which inhibits RhoA translocation (disclosed in the specification at page 30, lines 10-13).

As a compound that inhibits Rho kinase and a second compound which potentiates the effects of nitric oxide as described in claim 11, Applicants elect Y-27632 and (+/-)-(E)-methyl-2-((E)-hydroxyimino)-5-nitro-6-methoxy-3-hexenamide (NOR-1) (disclosed in the specification at page 18, lines 13-18, and page 30, lines 17-26).

As a compound that acts on a downstream target of Rho-kinase such as myosin light chain phosphatase, calponin, myosin light chain, CPI-17 as described in claim 12, Applicants elect Y-27632 which by inhibiting Rho kinase, reduces phosphorylation of myosin light chain phosphatase (disclosed in the specification at page 16, Table 1).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/6/03



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